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Message Text

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44
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-05 L-02 ACDA-05

NSAE-00 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 DODE-00 H-01 NSC-05 SS-15 OMB-01 AID-05 AGR-05

DEAE-00 IO-10 JUSE-00 SNM-02 SY-04 OES-03 /091 W
---------- 076795
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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7228
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMEMBASSY IZMIR
USMISSION NATO
EUCOM
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, TU
SUBJ: ECEVIT'S SPEECH TO RPP CONVENTION

1. PARTY LEADER (AND FORMER PRIMIN) BULENT ECEVIT GAVE A WARMLY RECEIVED THREE-HOUR SPEECH AT THE OPENING SESSION OF THE 22ND ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY ON DECEMBER 14. AMONG MAJOR TOPICS HE DISCUSSED WERE CYPRUS, RELATIONS WITH U.S. AND USSR, THE OPIUM POPPY PROBLEM, AND THE GOVERNMENT CRISIS.

2. HIGHLIGHTS:

A. CYPRUS. ECEVIT SAID THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAD ATTAINED AN
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HONORABLE SOLUTION TO THE CYPRUS QUESTION, WHICH FOR YEARS WAS

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THOUGHT TO BE INSOLUBLE, AND THAT TURKEY HAD SHOWN THE WORLD IT WAS A PEACE-LOVING NATION, EVEN WHILE IT WAS FIGHTING.

B. SOVIET PROPOSAL ON CYPRUS. ECEVIT REMARKED THAT "NO COUNTRY, BIG OR SMALL, CONCEDED TO THE SOVIET PROPOSAL ON CYPRUS, BUT NO ONE COULD EXPLICITLY REJECT IT. ONLY WE DID." HOWEVER, HE CONTINUED, BY KEEPING IN MIND "JUSTIFIABLE SOVIET ANXIETY OVER WORLD PEACE AND THE BALANCE OF POWER," TURKEY HAD PUT ITS RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIETS ON SOUNDER GROUND THAN BEFORE.

C. RELATIONS WITH U.S. ECEIVT SAID THAT EVEN THOUGH TURKEY DID NOT BOW TO U.S. URGINGS LAST JULY NOT TO INTERVENE IN CYPRUS, IN THE END TURKISH-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP WAS PLACED ON STRONGER FOUNDATIONS. REFERRING TO THE CUTOFF OF U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE, ECEVIT NOTED THAT, "THE TURCO-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP AND ALLIANCE WAS BEING PLACED ON SUCH A FOUNDATION FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MANY YEARS AND THE PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY OF STATE OF THE USA WERE RISKING A CLASH WITH THEIR CONGRESS,

WHICH WAS INFLUENCED BY THE VOTERS OF GREEK ORIGIN, IN ORDER TO CONTINUE THEIR ALLIANCE TIES WITH TURKEY. NOW THERE IS THE QUESTION OF THE U.S. AID TO TURKEY. THERE IS NO EXCUSE FOR THIS DECISION OF THE U.S. CONGRESS." IN ANOTHER REFERENCE TO THE CUTOFF, ECEVIT SAID: "IT (THE CUT-OFF) MUST WORRY THE U.S. AND NATO MORE THAN US. WITH REALISM AND UNDERSTANDING THE AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION SEEMS TO BE WORKING TO MAKE UP FOR THIS GREAT MISTAKE. WHILE WAITING FOR THIS WE MUST ALSO PREPARE IN DETAIL THE MEASURES WE WILL TAKE FOR TURKEY'S SECURITY."

D. OPIUM. ECEVIT NOTED THAT THE METHOD OF HARVESTING THE POPPIES (I.E., POPPY STRAW PROCESS) ADOPTED BY THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT HAD MET WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE UN AND THE US STATE DEPARTMENT, AND THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY HAD RECENTLY VOTED TO EXTEND FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO COUNTRIES WHICH FOLLOW THIS PROCESS.

E. DOMESTIC POLITICS. ECEVIT DWELT AT LENGTH ON THE REASONS FOR THE BREAKUP OF HIS COALITION WITH THE NATIONAL SALVATION PARTY, A PARTNER WHICH, HE CLAIMED, MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE TO MAKE RESPON-SIBLE DECISIONS ON BOTH FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC POLICY. HE
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SPECIFICALLY CHARGED THE NSP WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE LAST MINUTE CANCELLATION OF SECRETARY KISSINGER'S VISIT IN NOVEMBER. REGARDING THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT CRISIS, ECEVIT REITERATED HIS WELL-KNOWN POSITION THAT THE ONLY SOLUTION IS TO HOLD EARLY ELECTIONS. HE ADDED THAT A GOVERNMENT FORMED BY PARTIES EXCLUDING THE RPP COULD SOLVE NOTHING.

3. COMMENT: ECEVIT'S SPEECH, WHILE MODERATE IN TONE,

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EMPHASIZED THE THEMES OF AN INDEPENDENT TURKISH FOREIGN POLICY UNDER THE ECEVIT GOVERNMENT AND THE NEED FOR A STRONG GOVERNMENT INCLUDING THE RPP TO DEAL WITH PERSISTENT PROBLEMS AT HOME AND ABROAD. ECEVIT WAS CAREFUL TO POINT OUT THAT THE ALLIANCE WITH THE U.S. HAD BEEN MAINTAINED, AND EXPRESSED HIS HOPE THAT THE CURRENT CUTOFF OF MILITARY AID COULD BE RESOLVED.

4. RESULTS OF CONVENTION, WHICH IS CONCLUDING DECEMBER 18, WILL BE REPORTED BY SEPTEL.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DRUG CONTROL, OPIUM, MILITARY ASSISTANCE, SPEECHES, POLITICAL SITUATION, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ANKARA09719
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740364-1033
From: ANKARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741233/aaaabcff.tel
Line Count: 125
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 MAY 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <24 MAR 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ECEVIT'S SPEECH TO RPP CONVENTION
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, SNAR, TU, CY, US, UR, (ECEVIT)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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